EXCUSE ME!
COULD YOU GET ANDOU-SAN FOR ME?
Just a minute.
OH, MEG?
OH, UM,
NO, THE OTHER ONE.
deja vu
I'm getting a sense of
Andou-saaaan!
ANDOU-SAAAN!
YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR!

★MAZE

OH, WOW!
YOU TURNED MY MESS OF A MANUSCRIPT INTO A REAL STORY.
THANKS, ANDOU-SAN!
ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW IS EDITING.
...ARE THERE ANY PARTS THAT SOUND WEIRD TO YOU?
NO, IT'S JUST PERFECT! ♡
I WAS CLEANING LIKE MAD YESTERDAY
SO I COULD HAVE YOU OVER TODAY.

whoosh
MAKI-SAN SHOULD HAVE SOME TEA WAITING FOR US...
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
slam
.....
...WAS THAT THE WIND?
ONE ISOLATED GUST, RIGHT NEXT TO US?
creak...

Was the dorm always this big?
The vanishing point.
...I CAN'T SEE
THE END OF THE HALL.
...YEAH.
OH!
bang!
eseak

IT WON'T EVEN BUDGE.
I've tried pulling and pushing.
.....
YAMA-GUCHI-SAN?
DON'T JUST OPEN--
stride stride stride
...
WHOOSH

BEING TOYED WITH...
Heh heh
They all lead right back to the hallway.
WE'RE
...IT'S LIKE...
BRING IT ON!
WE'LL RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!
You seem awfully happy about this
OKAY.
DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND, OR WE MIGHT GET SEPARATED.
LET'S GO, ANDOU-SAN!
clasp

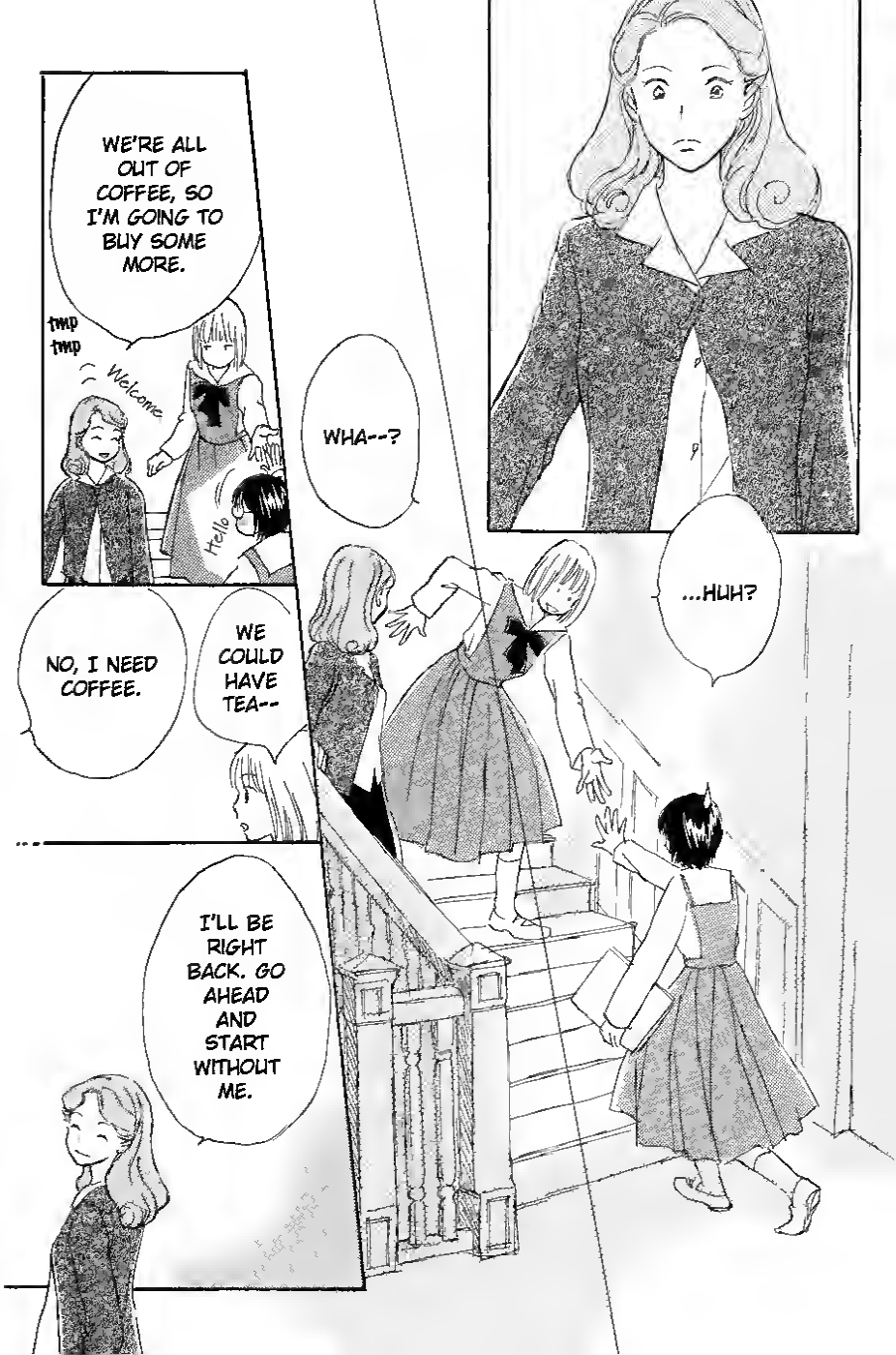
How about this one?
bang
I FEEL LIKE ALICE IN WONDERLAND.
WHEN SHE'S RUNNING JUST TO STAY IN ONE PLACE.
tmp tmp
tmp tmp
.....
empty

Over here!
I'M DIZZY.
note 1: Campanella is a character from Miyazawa Kenji's novel *Night on the Galactic Railroad*, which was adapted into an animated movie.
I'm tired, Patrasche!
But
LET'S BE TOGETHER FOREVER, NO MATTER WHERE WE GO, CAMPANELLA!
You're mixing up the stories
W-WELL, LET'S JUST KEEP GOING,
okay?
note 2: The dog from Marie Louise de la Ramée's novel *A Dog of Flanders*, which was also adapted into movies, animated series, etc!

...MORE STAIRS...
slide
rumble
URK!
NO WAY.
ANDOU-SAN!

...BUT--
JUMP!
IT'S OKAY! I'LL CATCH YOU.
Hurry, before it gets any farther!
JUMP, MIYUKI!
Ragh!

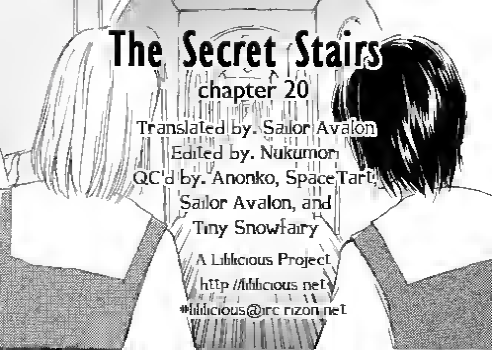
how unathletic you are.
I forgot
OH.
EEK!
wobble
tmp!
Something's there?
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


WE'RE ALL OUT OF COFFEE, SO I'M GOING TO BUY SOME MORE.
tmp tmp
Welcome
Hello
WHA--?
...HUH?
NO, I NEED COFFEE.
WE COULD HAVE TEA--
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. GO AHEAD AND START WITHOUT ME.

WELL, I'M GLAD WE'RE BACK, ANYWAY.
WHAT?
SIIIIGH
flop
THAT'S CREEPY.
HEY!
smirk
NOW, OUT WITH IT!
I SOLEMNLY SWEAR NOT TO LAUGH.
YOU WILL!
NO, I WON'T.
BUT YOU'LL LAUGH AT ME IF I TELL YOU.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME A FRIEND EVER CALLED ME "MIYUKI,"
Hehe
WITHOUT ANY HONORIFIC OR ANYTHING.*
*note: A more intimate form of address than using honorifics
.....
OH!
YOU ARE LAUGHING. I KNEW IT!
Eeeek!
Eeeek!
flap
That was way too cute!
OH, GEEZ!
muss
muss
AUGH!
I'M GOING TO MUSS UP YOUR HAIR AS PUNISHMENT!!
Phoo

OH!
AHHHH!
COME BACK!
My story!


The Secret Stairs
chapter 20
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